

TOWN of SHELBURNE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 3, 2023

In attendance: Gail Henderson-King, David Hall, Susan Dunning, Kelly Moreton, Ann Milovsoroff, Tod Warner

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM.
2. **Consider approval of minutes from December 6, 2022** - After the historical reference to the “Old Gymnasium” was reviewed, several other edits/corrections were made, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Citizen Participation (Opportunity for public comment on any Committee Business that is not included on this agenda)** – None
4. **FY 2024 Proposed Budget Update** – Brief discussion of the Selectboard meeting and the question was raised about whether the rest of the Select Board meeting was “legal” without the Zoom connection. The final FY 2024 budget has not been presented yet but expects to be submitted for a vote at the next Selectboard meeting. The only draft we have seen shows level funding for our two line items. Kelly offered the suggestion that the Tree Warden stipend be removed from our budget and included in the Selectboard budget similar to the stipends already earmarked for similar positions such as the Town Health Officer and Poet Laureate. Members agreed with this suggestion.
5. **Tree City USA 2022 application** – Gail offered to complete the application which involves documentation of the budget aspect of the designation – annual spending of \$2.00 per resident on tree related activities. Although it is likely that this number is already met in our budget, it will be easily met when the value of the volunteer hours from our Committee members are added up. Gail asked all members to send her an estimate of their volunteer hours to assist in the calculation.

Review Calendar – Gail had sent out a draft of the 2023 Calendar Susan updated. Committee members went over each month and made suggestions on additions and moving certain items to different months. Also discussed the larger grant opportunity that will become available for projects this year and can include such things as the Silva Cell planting system suitable for the areas along the parking lot/sidewalk on School St. The suggestion was made that the Committee also vie for this grant as it provides a rare opportunity for a larger grant without the need for matching funds. All agreed this was a good idea and will discuss next meeting.

6. **Public Education and Outreach / Fundraising** – Kelly mentioned that the Shelburne News has been regularly publishing articles about trees and invasive pests without our direct input which is great news. No proposed articles at this time. Updates on the Committee’s page on the Town website are on-going.
7. **Tree Warden Report** – Dave reported that he has been helping the School with selecting trees for interplanting around existing Ash trees along the entryway to the school. All 6 water tubs from tree plantings this past year are now safely in storage. Kelly mentioned that we need to trim around some of the young trees we have already planted on School Street to give them good space to continue their growth. Dave mentioned this will be something he will address in the spring.
8. **Other Business** – None
9. **December 2022 Accomplishments** – Approval for grant. Last years’ grant closed out. Shade Tree Management Plan finalized.
10. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Secretary Tod Warner.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on _____